



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: **Second Tuesday** of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the **third Tuesday** of each month.
- On the **fourth Tuesday** of every month, in-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Date: September 10, 2024

Main topic: "Making UHF work for TV: Lessons Learned"

By: Mark Nelson AJ2X.

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 7:30 PM, [More info at RARS.org](https://www.rars.org)

Next Month: RARS Auction

RARS In Person Gathering

Date: September 24, 2024

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

In-person Gathering at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.

RARS Officers

PRESIDENT

Fin Gold
NC4FG
nc4fgfin@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Till
K4RGN
k4rgn@outlook.com

SECRETARY

Julie Royster
KT4JR
919-782-1624
KT4JR@arrl.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
KE4PAX@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Regular dues for licensed amateurs are \$18 per year. (From July 1 through June 30.) Additional licensed immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed full-time students and licensed seniors 60 and over are \$12 per year. Unlicensed individuals may become associate members for \$9 per year. Applications for membership are available from the treasurer or on the RARS web site.

<https://www.rars.org>

Exciter

The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the Exciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

Exciter President's Message for September 2024

Something For Everyone!

This is it! September 2024 is the month that RARS returns to in-person General Club meetings after years of Zoom-only meetings! The location is at Ridge Road Baptist Church. That is the same location and time as before.

If you can't make it, just join the Zoom session as usual and see the meeting and presentation live!

More details:

- Come to the new ham meeting at 6 PM to learn and ask questions
- Come to the General Club meeting at 7 PM for a half hour of social time
- The actual meeting starts at 7:30 PM. If attending on Zoom, join then
- See the live in-person presentation on Making UHF Work for TV by Mark Nelson, AJ2X
- Snacks and drinks will be served
- Sign in at the door to get your free ticket for our door prizes
- Take a look at the table in the back for free and for-sale small items

You Da Club!

As our club events and new ideas take off, our club is growing. For the first time ever, our member count is over 500! Since we need a quorum of 10% at our meetings to take a vote, that means we need over 50 people to attend the meetings. We normally have less than that.

Well, for the August meeting, we asked for people to join and you answered the call! We easily had a quorum (I counted 72 on-line at one time) and passed 3 months of minutes and the 24/25 budget. It reminded me how our members deliver when it counts. **Thank you for making that happen!**

Chill Out

As the weather finally cools, and maybe the sun gives us a break from its recent storms, there are more opportunities for cool outdoor radio events.

Here are some suggestions for making the best of it:

- The Portable Operating Group events are always interesting because they let you make radio contacts in beautiful places.
- As POTA (Parks on the Air) continues to be popular, please consider inviting other club members when you go to a park. It is a great opportunity for new hams to learn how it all works.
- Announce your activities on the [RARS Discord Server](#) to get the word out.
- Ask for help there for your antenna needs to get your home station started or updated. There are plenty of antenna experts in our club.

President's Message for September 2024, continued

The State Fair Exhibit and Special Event Station



Every single day at the NC State Fair (October 17-27), ham radio clubs are joining together to represent our hobby to the public. The event consists of 4-hour shifts, a weekend special event station, and a Friday Get-On-The-Air station.

Please volunteer to help with this outreach event.

Why volunteer at the State Fair?

- It is in our Club charter to show the public what we do
- Find out what the public knows about ham radio
- Share your passion!
- FREE entry and parking for the Fair. Volunteer and then enjoy the Fair
- Meet and volunteer alongside hams from other clubs
- Sign up [here for the Exhibit](#) (three four-hour shifts per day)
- Participate in the weekend special event station as the N4C call
- Participate in the Fridays GOTA station
- Sign up [here for the Special Event and GOTA Stations](#)

You can find even more details on the [RARS Website](#).

73,

Fin Gold, NC4FG

President

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

August 13, 2024 RARS meeting

Fin Gold, NC4FG, RARS President, started the meeting at 7:30. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Various reports were given. See the [minutes](#) for more information about the meeting. Chuck Till, K4RGN introduced the presentation, "NanoVNA & TinySA" by Lee Johnson, N4WYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM.

All the presentation slides are on the RARS website. [Click here.](#)

Why You Need New Tools

NanoVNA & TinySA

Lee Johnson
N4WYE

RARS
Aug 13, 2024

Thanks for the Invitation

KH6DAK in Hawaii 1957

Charter Member: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society 1969

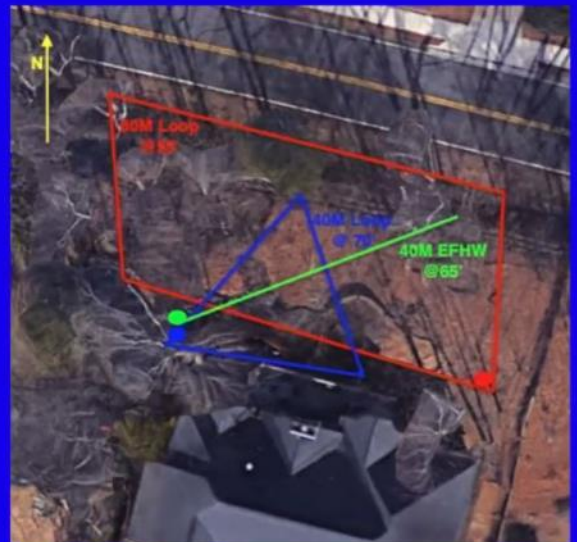
W4DW Repeater 146.64 MHz in Raleigh 1975

Retired after 40 years in high tech systems

HF, VHF, SDR, home brew & antennas

NFARL & RARS member

N4WYE Lee



Screen captures during the zoom presentation.

<https://www.rars.org>

NanoVNA & TinySA

- Introduction
- How I use them
- NanoVNA & TinySA enter the market
- Technical description/specs
- Operation/Demo
- Application Examples
- Reference Sources
- Q & A

So What is a NanoVNA?

Vector Network Analyzer

Measures the magnitude and phase of the reflection and transmission properties of an antenna or device over a frequency range.

Vector Network Analyzer = Instrument used to characterize RF devices

Screen captures during the zoom presentation.



NanoVNA and TinySA are similar but not!

NanoVNA is a Vector Network Analyzer

- Measures reflected and transmitted power
- Antenna SWR and complex impedance
- Characterize amplifiers, filters & cables



TinySA is a Spectrum Analyzer

- Measures magnitude of a signal versus frequency
- Analyze signals in the rf spectrum
- Measure harmonics & intermodulation products
- RFI location tool



Screen captures during the zoom presentation.

Summary

NanoVNA & TinySA - Software defined RF tools extraordinaire

Functionality expanding - open architecture

YouTube videos & Groups:io

US source - R&L Electronics

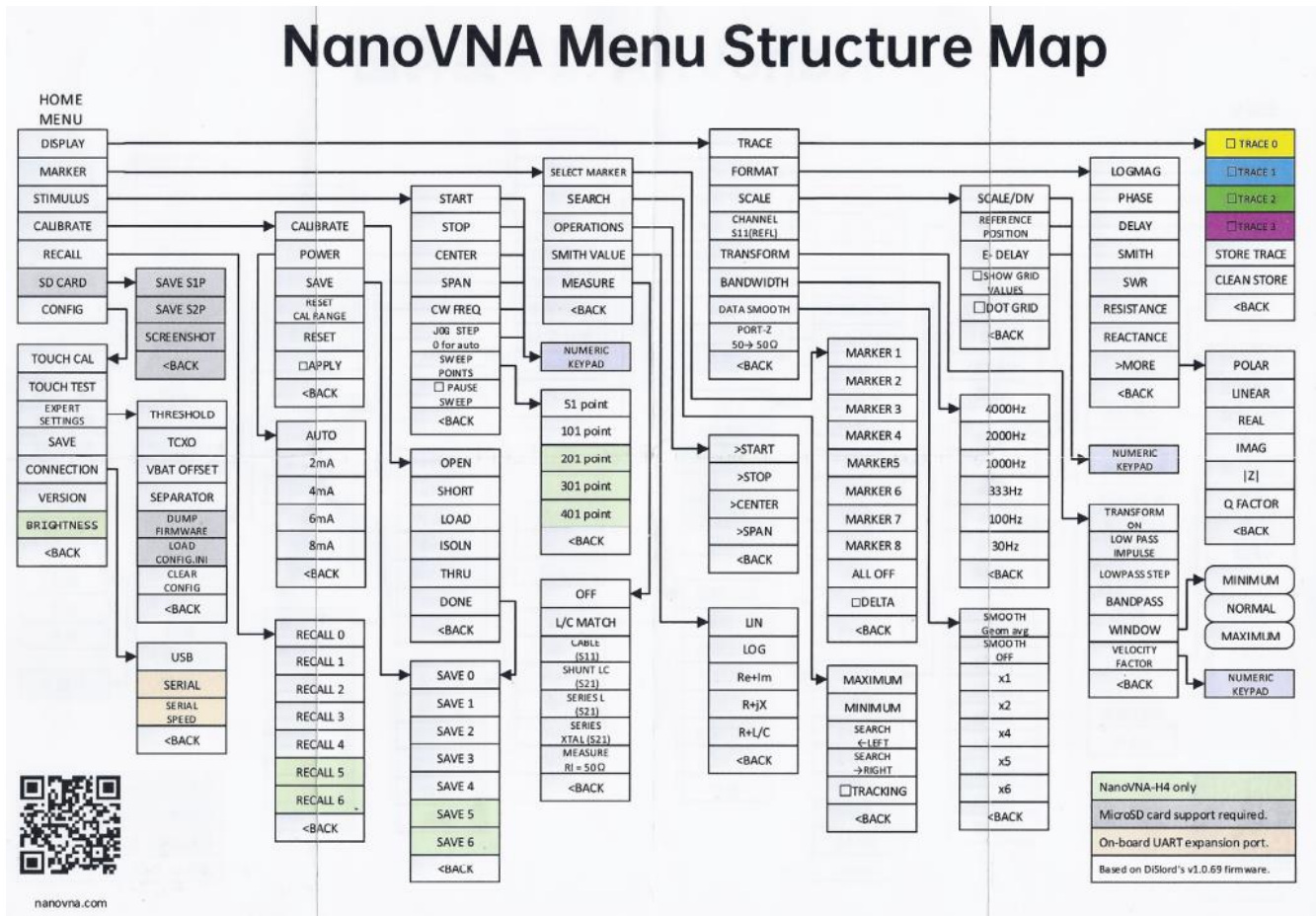
NanoVNA-H4" \$90

TinySA 4" \$80

[R&L Electronics website](http://www.rlelectronics.com) NanoVNA

Screen capture during the zoom presentation.

[R&L Electronics website](http://www.rlelectronics.com) .



August 13, 2024 RARS meeting, continued

 Tom N4TL Raleigh	 Chuck, K4HF - Raleigh	 Louis K4BYN
 Chuck K4RGN Raleigh (Host)	 Cliff, N3LEX, Garner, NC	 Mike KN4DRN Durham, NC
 RARS - W4DW - Raleigh (Co-host)	 Curt Kroha WA4BOZ	 Nancy Torborg KB2TNR
 Fin NC4FG Raleigh	 Daryl KX4WY	 Norm Burtness Wake Forest NC W
 Stephen NY4NC Wake Forest	 Dave KQ4MBK Wake Forest	 NR4O Eric - Cary
 Bill AK4BL Zebulon	 Dean KM4WRO Raleigh	 Richard Kroeger N1FUA Apex
 Fred Williams, KQ4RPP, Raleigh	 Dennis Masn	 Robert K4YXM Topsail Beach
 Genevieve Barnes	 Denny KO4IBL Raleigh	 Robert Knightdale (AD6I)
 Greg KE4PAX Hanover, MD	 Diane KC3HNG Raleigh	 Ryan N7RYN Apex
 Mike Salmi KO7G Fuquay	 Doug AD4UL, Erie,PA	 sam KN4RWI
 Tom H (K4ETH) Cary	 Ed di Girolamo	 Tadd (KA2DEW) Torborg
 Al KE4IHX Roxboro	 Ernie NC4EW Oak Ridge NC	 Tim KC1TWR Carrboro
 ALAN AB4OZ RALEIGH	 Greg KE4PAX Hanover, MD	 tom k KQ4FKQ - cary, nc
 Alanna K4AAC NC	 Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX	 Tom K2UCU Cary
 ashby KB5ZIH	 Jim Welch, W1XR	 Tom NC4TS Lake Royale
 Bill AF4JG Cary	 Joanne AA3N, Zebulon	 Tony K1OC Apex
 Bill W4WHW Raleigh	 Joe	 Tyler KO4BZA
 Bob K4RLC NC	 Joe KM4WRQ, Apex	 WA4OSS_Charles
 Bob N4GEB Clayton NC	 John Hollowell K4JAH Raleigh	 Walter Chambers K4ZVK

Continued on next page

August 13, 2024 RARS meeting, continued

 Bob W4TTX, Raleigh	 K4HEW - Joe - Clayton	 Wilbur WD4RDT
 Brantley K4CBW	 Ken Latchum AD4GX Raleigh	 Will WA4GK Durham
 Bruce KI4PAC	 KM4DJR Jimmie Walnut Cove, NC	 William Gilmore
 Carl KN4QQU Durham	 Larry K4LXV Raleigh	 William KG6NDT Cary
 Charles WB4DCM Raleigh	 Lee N4WYE	 Sherry - KE4LZE
 Asif		

73 people attended

Volunteers needed at our in-person general membership meetings

I need volunteers for specific roles at our in-person general membership meetings that start in September.

1. Arrive by 6:45 pm and help to set up the room... tables and chairs.
2. Stay after the meeting adjourns and put the tables and chairs away, like we found them.

You are welcome to help with both 1 and 2, or sign up for only either of them.

I am looking for four people who can commit to #1 and four people who can commit to #2 on an ongoing basis. You can skip meetings as necessary, but with four volunteers each we will have enough volunteers to cover every meeting.

Members who advocated for a return to in-person meetings are especially invited to volunteer for this.

The link to sign up is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FA8A728A1FACF8-50433411-general> .
You do NOT have to create a SignUpGenius account to sign up.

Chuck Till K4RGN

<https://www.rars.org>

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, August 27

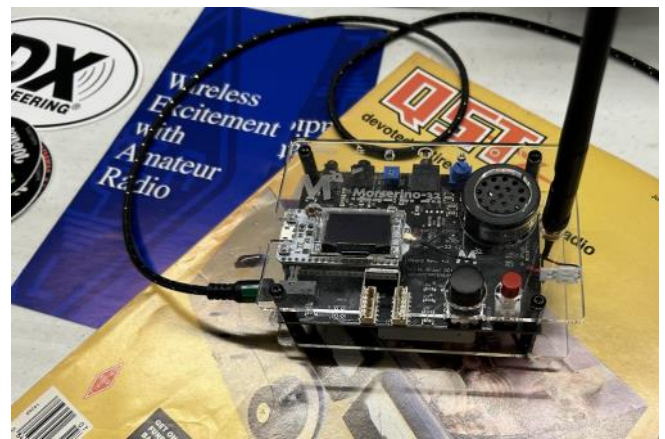
Ridge Road Baptist Church, at [2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh](#)

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, but we start setting up at 6:00 pm, and you are welcome to bring your own ham radio equipment and projects to demonstrate, show off, or just work on with other like-minded hams -- we have plenty of tables. You might also find sources of coax, connectors, zip cord, Powerpoles®, and whatnot.

RARS Gathering Sign-in, 44 people signed in 48 attended

Name	Call Sign	RARS Member?	Name	Call Sign	RARS Member?
Austin Hyder	K4HYD	Yes	Katie Farmer	KQ4TIF	Yes
Bill Berzinskas	WW1H	Yes	Ken Kirchner	KQ4QWZ	Yes
Bob Starkenburg	W4TTX	Yes	Marty Young	W4MY	Yes
Brantley West	K4CBW	Yes	Mondell Hampton	KC0LGZ	No
Charles Swindell	WB4DCM	No	Nancy Torborg	KB2TNR	Yes
Chris Kitchen	KM4LXF	No	Paul Dugdell	KO4PZA	Yes
Chuck Till	K4RGN	Yes	Ralph Selmont	KQ4RZI	Yes
Daniel Berzinskas	KQ4GOB	Yes	Reward dellafave	KC4AQC	Yes
Dennis Keith	NC4DK	Yes	Richard Hall	K7RLH	Yes
Dennis Mason	WZ0Q	Yes	Richard Kroeber	N1FUA	Yes
Denny Oestreich	KO4IBL	Yes	Robert Dugdell	KQ4ERD	Yes
Devin Hedge	KN4FVH	Yes	Roger Brower	N4KDD	Yes
Doug Wall	N3LTV	Yes	Ryan Reed	N7RYN	Yes
Fin Gold	NC4FG	Yes	Sam Robinson	KN4RWI	Yes
Greg Seamster	KE4PAX	Yes	Stephen Haffly	NY4NC	Yes
Jay Henning	KB1QYH	No	Stuart Kaskawits	NF2N	Yes
Jim Seanad	K04ZHO	Yes	Tadd Torborg	KA2DEW	Yes
Joe Haggarty	N4BJH	Yes	Tom Lewis	N4TL	Yes
John Hollowell	K4JAH	Yes	Tony O™ Connor	K1OC	Yes
John Honeycutt	N8ZU	Yes	Tony O™ Connor, III	No Call	No
Jon Suen	KG6K	Yes	Will Jaber	WY5L	Yes
Jonathan Osbrink	KB8QNE	Yes	Will Gwaltney	WA4GK	Yes

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, Continued



Morserino-32 Morse code Keyer and trainer.



Radio Shack TRS80 Computer
running Basic

RARS Gathering, pictures

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, Continued



Will Jaber, WY5L talking to Professor Emeritus Dan Stancil, WY30

Will is showing his homemade HF linear amplifier.

Morse Code – The Original Digital

RARS is exploring offering an In-person Morse Code class, as it did in the past. Morse Code has stood the tests of time and is extremely popular, even without a FCC licensure requirement. The class would be at the Beginner's level, eg, no or minimal prior CW knowledge or ability, and follow the class design of CW Academy. This is an 8 week once a week In person, with home and internet study, and possible On-the-Air nets. Classes would begin in January 2025, and will be taught by Bob K4RLC, CW Ops member, and instructor for the Long Island CW Club. Please send your questions or interest to Bob at:

K4rlcc@hotmail.com

73 de K4RLC, Bob



Dale W4AUV RARS 40 CW Field Day
Band Captain....sends left handed.



K4RLC, Bob's operating Field Day portable at
home during COVID....Ukrainian CW key

Day one of RARS Technician License Class August 31



RARS is holding Ham Radio Technician Training Classes on August 31, September 7 and September 14, 2024. These classes will help prepare new HAMs to take the test for their first license. For more information see the RARS website or page 14 of the August 2024 Exciter.

RARS Member Birthdays

Bill	W0VZ	09/
Jack	K4WFJ	09/02
Jimmie	KM4DJR	09/02
Dave	KK4BPM	09/02
Wilbur	WD4RDT	09/03
Daryl	KX4WY	09/03
Michael	KO4HCZ	09/04
Jim	W4YGM	09/04
Ronnie	KN4UFL	09/05
Mary Jo	K4MJL	09/05
Joe	K4JMZ	09/06
Lou	K4BYN	09/07
Jim	KQ4HSG	09/07
Robert Harrison		09/10
Nancy	KB2TNR	09/10
Ray	KF4AIB	09/14
Sandy	AC1Y	09/16
Robert	W4MBD	09/16
Paul	N2XZF	09/16
Ken	N4ZBB	09/18
Mac	WQ8U	09/18
Bill	WD4PXN	09/20
Rod	KI4LSN	09/20
Chuck	W2WNC	09/20
Sam	KN4RWI	09/22
Javier	K4JH	09/23
Justin	AJ4MJ	09/25
Steve	KI4YXJ	09/25
Carl	N4BBA	09/26
Leon	KB4KSA	09/27
Julie	WE3T	09/27
Tom	N3RI	09/29

RARS New Members

Barry Wheeler	K9IUT
Phillip Cockrell	N4PLC
Navin Kalicharan	KF4LFW
Salem Roach	KA4AKA
Rick Wright	N9VMQ
Bradley Stevens	KK4KYP
Ted Greenstein	WA8NVC

August 2024 RARS Net Report

31 2m nets: 363 checkins, 687 minutes

3 6m nets: 43 checkins, 66 minutes

Julie Royster, KT4JR

RARS Dinner change

As of August 2024, the **RARS Dinner** will take place on the **THIRD Tuesday of each month**. We switched it with the Board of Directors meeting (now on the first Tuesday of each month) to optimize club decisions and votes. The next BoD meeting will be August 6, 2024. **The next RARS Dinner will be September 17, 2024.**

Please go to the website for details on location and time (which have not changed).

Chuck Till K4RGN, RARS VP

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh & Nets

146.640 And 444.525, [click for link to RARS website.](#)

Join us for the nightly RARS net at 8 p.m. on the 146.640 repeater. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

There is a net Listing on the RARS web-site click here. <https://www.rars.org/nets.php>

HAM RADIO LUNCHEON

Everyone is welcome!

Every Thursday at 11:15 AM, New York Diner,
909 McKnight Drive Knightdale.

<https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkDinerNC>

Check the latest information on the AB40Z QRZ entry. [QRZ.COM](https://www.qrz.com).

Six meter net

Join us Mondays at 8:30PM on 50.200 USB. Every one is invited. This is an informal net run by our vice president Chuck Till, K4RGN. After the SSB net, on the first Monday of the month we will QSY to 50.400 AM. Its interesting to hear the difference between SSB and AM.

<https://www.rars.org>

RARS Monthly Supper, IHOP Restaurant

All members and guests are welcome to the monthly (Third Tuesday) RARS Supper, 6:30PM, at the IHOP Restaurant, 7471 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. The restaurant is on the corner of Sawmill and Six Forks Roads. After entering the restaurant look for our folks in the dining room. Informal and Dutch, just bring your appetite and best rag to chew.

73, Chuck, K4HF

RARS MONTHLY SUPPER, IHOP RESTAURANT AUGUST 20, 2024



Names clockwise around the table

Ralph Selmont, KQ4RZI; Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; Bob Starkenburg, W4TTX;
Dennis Mason, WZ0Q; Chuck Till, K4RGN; Bob Chew, K4YXM; Robert Chew;
Walt Chambers, Jr., K4ZVK; Will Jaber, WY5L; Katie Farmer, KQ4TIF.

Photo by Tom N4TL

NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS ON THE AIR

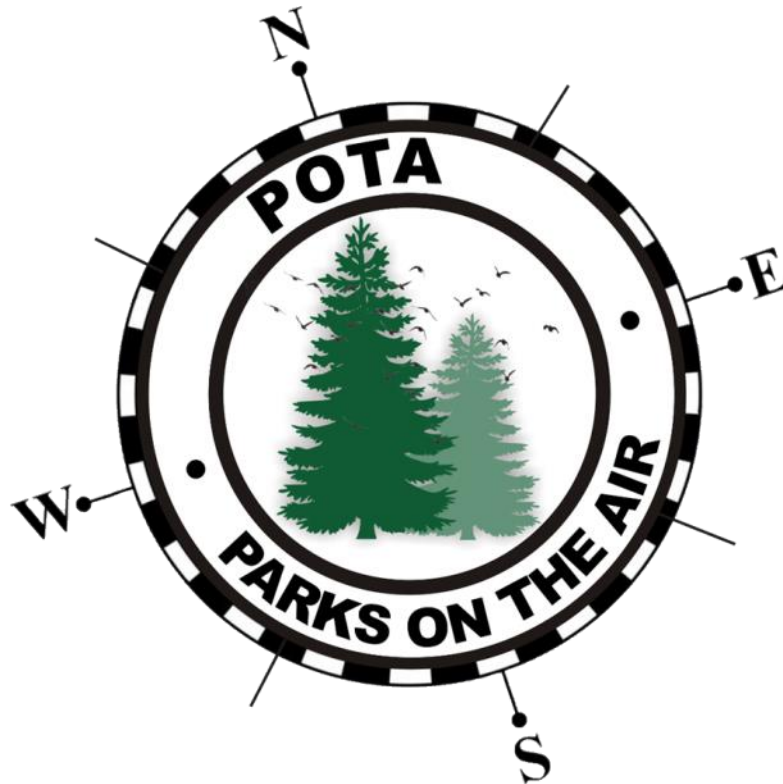
September 7-8, 2024

North Carolina State Parks on the Air

September 7-8, 2024

CQ NCPOTA! CQ NCPOTA!

Hello everyone! I hope you've all had a great summer. Just wanted to send a quick reminder email that the North Carolina State POTA event is THIS WEEKEND, September 7th-8th, 2024. We hope you'll join us in activating your local parks.



Thanks and 73,

Zach - KM4BLG

Link to website click here. ncpota.org

RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.
Check the RARS Classified List on the RARS website regularly for new items.

Xiegu X6200 HF Transceiver

Posted August 30th, 2024 by: K4RLC

Contact: bconder@yahoo.com

Xiegu X6200 HF Transceiver | 8W | Full Mode Full Band | RF Direct Sampling | Replaceable Battery | Built-in ATU | SDR Structure | WFM AIR RX with optional programming cable.

Brand new, still in unopened box. Received July 2024. Ordered in error.

Asking \$750. Pick up in Raleigh.

Misc Radio Gear

Posted August 28th, 2024 by: K4HF

Contact: k4hf953@yahoo.com

1. SOLD - Elecraft KX1 QRP Transceiver for 40,30 and 20 Meter CW with front paddle & manual. Tested
2. Drake R8A Communications Receiver, excel condx, with manual - \$525
3. SOLD - ICOM IC PS-15 Power Supply 13.8Vdc 16A, tested
4. Pyramid PS-35 13.8Vdc 35A Power Supply, tested - \$85
5. Astron VS-35M 13.8Vdc 35A power Supply, w/LED Lamps, tested - \$100
6. W3FF HF Buddipole Portable Antenna System in case, exc condx - \$195

Contact me by e mail, preferred, or (919) 630-9358 Thanks, Chuck

RARS Classifieds continued

Heathkit Audio Filter

Posted August 28th, 2024 by: KE4YEM

Contact: edwardepley@gmail.com

Heathkit HD-1418 Active Audio Filter. Excellent Condition with manual. \$40.00

Ed Epley 828-310-0686

Heathkit QRP Wattmeter

Posted August 28th, 2024 by: KE4YEM

Contact: edwardepley@gmail.com

Heathkit QRP Wattmeter HM-9 Excellent Condition \$69.00

Ed Epley 828-310-0686

Internet Radio Tuner

Posted August 27th, 2024 by: KE4YEM

Contact: edwardepley@gmail.com

WR-10 Internet Radio Tuner. Like New \$65

Ed Epley, 828-310-0686

Powered Digital Receiver & Amplifier

Posted August 27th, 2024 by: KE4YEM

Contact: edwardepley@gmail.com

KEiID KD-240BT Compact Powered Digital Receiver & Amplifier. Like New \$100

Ed Epley, 828-310-0686

RARS Classifieds continued

For Sale

Posted August 22nd, 2024 by: W4BMX

Contact: tonylaszlo@hotmail.com

For Sale - Window Antenna feedthrough panel \$20. Moonraker Hamsticks 6-40 m \$100.

Can text pictures.

919 961-1813

Thanks, de W4BMX Tony

Amateur Radio For Sale

Posted August 18th, 2024 by: KJ4WD

Contact: cjponto@bellsouth.net

- Palstar AT2K Antenna Tuner \$360.00
- Rigol DS1102E 100 Mhz 2-Channel Digital Oscilloscope \$225.00
- IMD Meter by kk7uq \$60.00
- Hiland M12864 Transistor/Component Tester \$15.00

Rotators for sale

Posted August 18th, 2024 by: N4TL

Contact: n4tl2@yahoo.com

Rotator and control box, CDE Ham-M. Marked H3 1978. With 70 feet of 8-conductor cable. \$150.

Rotator and control box, CDE Ham-M. Marked H 1982. With 70 feet of 8-conductor cable. \$150.

AR22 Rotator, 4 wire, missing control box. \$20.

Contact N4TL via email.

RARS Classifieds continued

Motorola 7550e HT UHF

Posted August 13th, 2024 by: W4BMX

Contact: tonylaszlo@hotmail.com

Includes:

Radio 403-512 Mhz, Mpres Battery, Belt clip, Antenna (Stock and stubby)

Mic, Charger, Programming cable

\$450

Can text pics.

Regards, Tony, W4BMX, 919 961-1813

FS: Wayne Kerr B-601 RF Bridge

Posted August 13th, 2024 by: W4BOH

Contact: infomet@embargmail.com

Classic lab instrument, British

Neat design, with nice wood, would look good in your living room.

Makes RLC measurements from 15KHz to 5MHz, using an external oscillator.

With copy of book, but not the adapter for low resistance.

Can get a picture if you need.

\$50, in Hillsborough

Wilson

https://archive.org/details/Wayne_Kerr_Labs_B601_RF_Bridge/mode/2up

RARS Classifieds continued

AT2KD

Posted August 10th, 2024 by: N4PLC

Contact: amateurradio7@gmail.com

I have a Palstar tuner 160-6 Meters . Purchased new and overall condition 9.7 , You will not be disappointed , used with ALS-600 , rather sell to local ham . \$500.00 local and add \$50.00 if shipping . Will accept Zelle or PayPal.

For Sale - MFJ Tuner

Posted August 8th, 2024 by: W4BMX

Contact: tonylaszlo@hotmail.com

For Sale

MJF Deluxe Versa Tuner MJF-949E - Final price drop \$110

Can text or email pictures.

Regards, Tony, W4BMX, 919 961-1813

HF Vertical Antenna

Posted August 29th, 2024 by: KE4YEM

Contact: edwardepley@gmail.com

Out 250B Vertical HF antenna. New unused. \$150

Ed Epley 828-310-0686

Watch the RARS Classified List on the website for more estate items coming soon.

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

July 16, 2024

7:00 PM on Zoom

President Fin Gold NC4FG called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. There were no visitors. Board members present were: Fin Gold NC4FG, Chuck Till K4RGN, Tony O'Connor K1OC, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW, Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ, Brantley West K4CBW, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Denny Oestreich KO4IBL, Nancy Torborg KB2TNR, Richard Kroeger N1FUA, Richard Hall K7RLH, Curt Phillips W4CP, Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX, Ken Latchum AD4GX, Tom Lewis N4TL, and Julie Royster KT4JR. Secretary Julie Royster confirmed that a quorum was present. President Gold requested a motion to approve the minutes from the last board meeting; Julie Royster so moved, and the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business

- Repeaters Update - Fin Gold, NC4FG

President Gold posted a document available to BoD members in Google Drive regarding the steps and equipment needed to shore up the 146.64 W4DW repeater as the first part of a longterm plan to maintain repeaters. This will require new equipment and moving the site from the fairgrounds to Capital Towers. To pay for this project a request for an additional \$7,525 in repeater funds will be presented to RARS members as part of the 2024/25 budget.

- Other old business, if any

New Business

- Improving the RARS meeting efficiency - Fin Gold, NC4FG

President Gold reviewed the following motion circulated in advance to the BoD. Motion: "Move the RARS Board of Directors meeting to the first Tuesday of each month and the RARS dinner to the third Tuesday of each month, both as of August 2024." The advantage of this change is that BoD actions can be reviewed by club members 1 week following the BoD meeting rather than 3 weeks later under the current schedule. Greg Seamster made a motion to make this change, and the motion was seconded and approved.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

- Constant Contact for RARS outgoing messages - Fin Gold, NC4FG Due to increasing difficulties in using RARS-L to communicate to club members, using Constant Contact for outgoing messages would be both easier and more efficient. Tom Lewis moved to switch to Constant Contact; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Nancy Torborg explained that Constant Contact is not social media and will not expose members to spam.

Officers' Reports

- a. Vice-President's Report – Chuck Till K4RGN To ensure that RARS can cover the setup and takedown needs for in person meetings, Chuck will ask for volunteers via signup genius. No speaker is scheduled yet for September, but we do have a planned speaker for November. We need a volunteer to manage the inventory of items for the October auction, including collecting online forms of what members send in. Fin asked Richard whether he will need help with food transportation at in person club meetings. Chuck can solicit volunteers via signup genius. Nancy suggested that RARS could buy a folding wagon to transport food.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Greg Seamster KE4PAX Greg presented onscreen an updated club membership report (506 voting members) and revised proposed budget. The revised budget includes additional predicted donation income, as well as an allocation of an additional \$7525 into the repeater fund. President Gold asked for a motion to approve the budget proposal. A motion was made by Chuck Till, seconded, and passed unanimously. The proposed budget will be brought to the club members for approval in August, and members will be asked to attend the business meeting to provide a quorum.
- c. Secretary's Report – Julie Royster KT4JR The minutes are up to date.

Committee Reports:

- a. Public Service Director Jeremy Lindsley, K2HJX Volunteer turnout is robust, and events are doing well. We are halfway through the season.
- b. Education Director Denny Oestreich, KO4IBL Technician licensing training sessions are scheduled for 8/31, 9/7, and 9/14. The class is being advertised in the Exciter and on the website. Denny has asked the ARRL area director for suggestions for other names to add to email announcements. Nancy can help publicize to numerous ham groups. Denny wanted print catalogs but Nancy will send him links to online catalogs. There will be no cost to students for this class.
- c. Field Day Chairs Curt Phillips, W4CP and David Burt, W4OFO Curt thanked David and thanked everyone involved in Field Day. He stated that RARS should place well nationally.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

- d. Club License Trustees Tom Lewis, N4TL ARRL still has not responded about the trustee change.
- e. RARSfest Chair Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR Nancy will be on the road again soon advertising RARSfest. The committee will probably meet in September to start planning for 2025.
- f. Exciter Editor Tom Lewis, N4TL The acceptable file types for submissions to the Exciter were named, as previously stated at the July club meeting.
- g. Food Service Chair Richard Kroeger, N1FUA There will be snacks at the Gathering next week.
- h. Net Manager Julie Royster, KT4JR Fin asked for someone to announce meetings on the net in the absence of N8ZU for several months. Alan Pitegoff volunteered to do so.
- i. RARS VE Coordinator Richard Hall, K7RLH Plans are set for VE testing at the Cary swapfest on 7/20.
- j. RARS Webmaster Tony O'Connor, K1OC The website was inaccessible on Sunday due to a DNS error. Tony now has a website monitoring tool.
- k. Youth Chairman Brantley West, K4CBW Portable operating events continue to draw people, including youth. Last night there was an impromptu event with Thomas Witherspoon at Lake Crabtree.
- l. At Large Director Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ no report
- m. At Large Director Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW
The gatherings on the fourth Tuesday schedule continue to be popular.
- n. At Large Director Ken Latchum, AD4GX
The property of Mark Kilmer KM4JRH has been through probate.
Relatives are going through the property and will have an estate sale or auction on October 5-6.
Ken gave Chuck's name to the relatives. The relatives will return the club's band pass filters to RARS if they are found.

Other reports, questions, or comments

President Gold announced that NC State Fair ham booth signups will go out soon. We need to help staff this booth.

Adjournment

Chuck Till moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Royster KT4JR, RARS secretary

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes

7:30 PM on Zoom

August 13, 2024

1. President Fin Gold, NC4FG, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on Zoom. He welcomed participants and reminded them of several tips about using Zoom. RARS wants to support the amateur radio booth at the State Fair in October by providing hams to help staff the booth on a daily basis. Volunteers can sign up for a time slot via the RARS website's main page. He reminded members that beginning in September the club meetings will be held in person and simultaneously on Zoom. President Gold asked whether there were new members, visitors, or newly upgraded members present; Carl Frega, KN4QQU, identified himself as a visitor.
2. President Gold asked Secretary Julie Royster, KT4JR, whether a quorum had been achieved. She verified that there was a quorum with 64 voting members present. President Gold then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings from May, June, and July 2024. Chuck Till, K4RGN, so moved, and the motion was seconded and approved.
3. Treasurer's Report or announcements – Greg Seamster, KE4PAX There are currently 417 voting members. The proposed budget, which was presented in June, has been adjusted slightly to account for anticipated donations. The revised proposed budget was shown on screen. The increased expenditure for the repeater fund is needed to make hardware improvements to the 146.64 repeater. There were several questions from participants about the budget. Members may see a copy of the budget via Google Drive with a link from the Discord site. Following discussion President Gold asked for a motion to approve the budget; Chuck Till, K4RGN, so moved, and the motion was seconded and approved.

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RARS General Membership Meeting minutes continued

4. Vice President's Report or announcements – Chuck Till, K4RGN When in-person meetings resume in September we will need volunteers for setup and take-down of the meeting room each month. A Signup Genius link for volunteers to assist with this was published in the Exciter and is linked from the rars.org home page. We also need a volunteer to coordinate the inventory of items for sale at the auction at the October meeting. Please contact Chuck if you can help with this urgent auction need.
5. Secretary's Report or announcements – Julie Royster, KT4JR The minutes are up to date.
6. Specific Announcements or Reports from Directors
 - a. Announcement from Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ The free AB4OZ fest will be Saturday August 17. The Shelby hamfest will be August 31 -September 1. Every Thursday there is a ham luncheon at the NY Diner in Knightdale.
 - b. The next Board Meeting will be at 7PM on Tuesday, September 3rd via Zoom; visitors are welcome and you can get the Zoom link from Fin Gold, NC4FG.
 - c. Fin Gold reminded members that the RARS dinner is now being held on the third Tuesday of each month.
7. Vice President Chuck Till, K4RGN, introduced the program at 7:48 pm. The topic is "New Tools: The NanoVNA and the Tiny SA" presented by Lee Johnson, N4WYE.
8. Following the program President Gold requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephen Haffly NY4NC so moved, and the motion was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.
- 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Julie Royster, KT4JR

Marconi Revived - Activating the Marconi sites in Glace Bay, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada August 2024

by Bob K4RLC VE1/K4RLC

Alanna K4AAC and I just returned from a wonderful trip to Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, Canada. It was a bucket list trip. One goal was to visit and activate the two Marconi sites in Glace Bay. Then, we would drive the Cabot Trail around the Island, hiking and activating various provincial parks and lighthouses. Cape Breton Island is incredibly beautiful, with mountains coming right to the sea. The seafood is great (freshly caught lobster) and the people are relaxed and friendly.

The Marconi National Historic Site at Table Head Glace Bay is on the site of Marconi's transmitting station from 1902 where the first successful trans Atlantic contact was made with the Poldhu Cornwall England station. Now, there is a small, but very Informative Parks Canada Museum, which also happens to have an active amateur radio station on site. I had arranged by e-mail with members of the local Sydney (NS) Amateur Radio Society to meet the control operators there.



Marconi National Historic Site (Parks Canada) with Beam and Dipole visible & Alanna VE1/K4AAC

The station is only open two months of the year, July & August, and the control Ops are there only for a short time each day. We met Jim and Michael VE1CYO, a former CW operator in the British Royal Navy. Not only did Mike know the history of the Marconi site, he was very gracious in letting me operate the station. They have a Kenwood TS-590, a Mosley 3 element beam, as well as a 40 through 10 dipole.

Marconi Revived, continued



Mike VE1CYO (right) Control Op for station;
Bob VE1/K4RLC left



Alanna VE1/K4AAC (right) & Bob VE1/K4RLC
at operating position for VE1VAS

It was one of those days with very bad solar condi-

tions.

Mike was doubtful I would make any contacts. However, I had pre spotted on the POTA site, as the station is also a POTA site: CA-4842. The Kenwood and beam worked well on 20 meter CW. The first contact was Gary, AE4GS, a friend in Tennessee. Then, Rich N4EX back in Raleigh. As Mike did not know, I explained to him about the POTA system, and how there were many hams who would want to work the Marconi station VE1VAS, named after the commercial Marconi call sign of VAS (standing for "Voice of the Atlantic Seaboard"). After working all the stations we could hear, and talking with Mike about his Royal Navy history, he left for the afternoon. As my KX2 was in the shop, Rhett KB4HG had graciously lent me his for our trip. I went out to the original Marconi antenna field by the ocean and set up the KX2. It was a lovely afternoon, clear skies, nice breeze and being on a cliff overlooking the ocean. Conditions were not great for QRP, but there were several families visiting with young children who were very curious about ham radio, Morse code, and Marconi. Alanna and I were happy to talk with the families and children. After showing the KX2 to a very inquisitive 6 year old boy from Montreal, he told his Mom: "I want one!"

Marconi Revived, continued



Operating the KX2 with MP1& Whiterook Key in the original antenna field in Glace Bay; Right-1902 Photo of antenna field

After driving the island via the Cabot Trail loop for several days, we spent the last morning at the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck, also a POTA site (CA-4826). Bell was an incredible inventor, not just of the telephone, but of scientific and medical experiments. He developed a device to send voice over a beam of light. And he predicted cell phones!

For the last afternoon, we returned to Glace Bay and wanted to find the old Marconi House. We followed Mike's directions to a place appropriately called Marconi Tower Road. And a gravel driveway where several power lines made an abrupt turn up a long driveway. This was indeed the original Marconi House from 1905, which is also a Canadian National Historic Site but is privately owned. A old sign that said "Guard dog - Do Not Enter" was still there and we had been told the current owner did not like visitors. But it also was a POTA site (CA-5830) that had NEVER been activated. So, I was standing at the end of the driveway with the Elecraft KH1 when a car came down from the house. I was very apprehensive. But when it stopped, the driver rolled down the window, looked at me curiously and said "hello". I said "hello" back and explained that I was a ham radio operator and hoped he didn't mind if I stood on his driveway and operated. He smiled and said he could tell I was a ham. Then he said he had to run an errand but he would be back in 5 minutes and I could follow him back to the house!

Marconi Revived, continued



This was Barry, grandson of Russell who bought the house from Marconi in 1946. This turned into a wonderful visit with Barry. He initially took us on the outside of the house but said we couldn't come in. We said

Marconi Revived, continued



that was fine.

K4AAC & K4RLC in front yard of Marconi House with KH1

Then he took us for a long hike back in the woods to the original Marconi transmitter building. Unfortunately, it had been mostly consumed in a terrible fire, so hot that all the insulators, ceramics and transformers had burst. Barry was extremely helpful, digging through the rubble to find original insulator pieces for me.



Barry & Bob at VAS Marconi Transmitter site – Barry dug thru debris to find meters & insulators

Barry and I hit it off really well. As we walked back to the house, he invited us inside. Alanna stayed in the kitchen and talked with his very nice wife, Brenda, a First grade school teacher. Barry took me down in the basement and showed me Marconi's workshop. There were a lot of old Volt & Amp meters from the early 1900's. Barry had dug through the debris of the VAS Transmitter station fire to find me old insulators, shattered by the fire. In the basement, he went to a dark section in the back, under the stairs and found a unbroken ceramic insulator that he gave to me! We went in the various rooms where Marconi had stayed. It was a dream come true.

Marconi Revived, continued



Insulators from Marconi Transmitting station VAS that Barry gave me



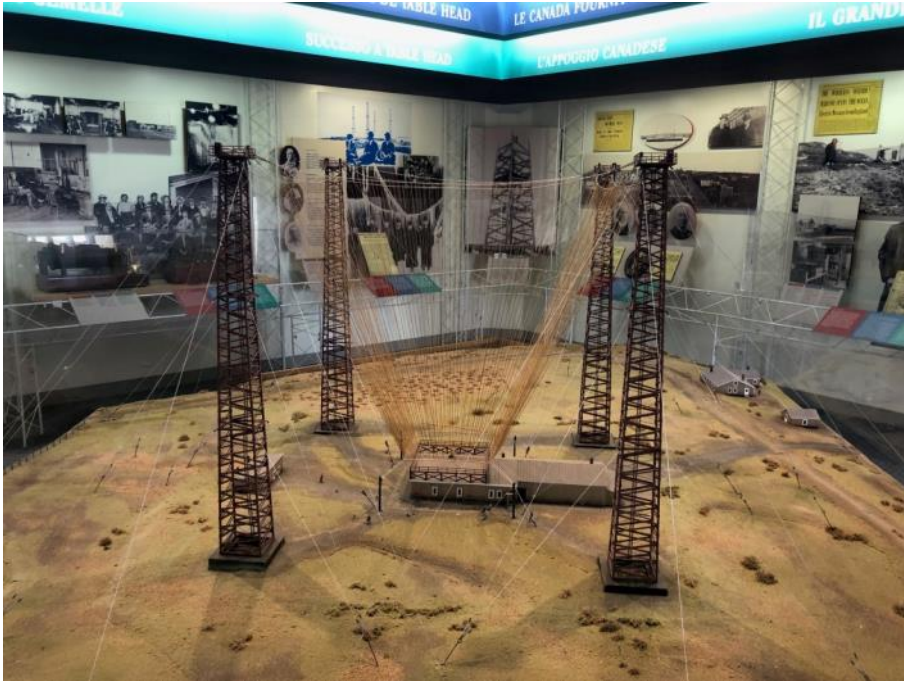
Volt & Amp meters in basement: Note meter on Right says "DC Volts Shortwave Station Glace Bay 1930" hand written

I only made a few CW contacts with the handheld KH1 in the front yard, as Barry and I spent a few hours talking about Marconi and Barry's family, including his grandparents, who were buried in the back, near one of the massive antenna mounts.

Just wonder what Marconi would have thought about the KH1 with a 4 foot whip antenna, given that he had four 200 foot antenna towers with an Inverted pyramid configuration of wires, 2200 feet in diameter, spread across 80 acres of land. Wow! I wished that antenna was there to load up with the KH1. I was running about 3 watts on 20 CW while Marconi's station had coal-fired boilers driving steam engines pushing generators in series producing 15,000 volts that powered the Spark transmitters on 8000 Meters. There were train tracks into the station to deliver the coal to this station at Marconi Towers. It maintained in service until 1945 giving long range communications to ships in the North Atlantic and marine weather

Marconi Revived, continued

information using the call sign VAS.



Model of 1902 Antenna field at Glace Bay in Marconi NHS at Glace Bay



Marconi sitting with Spark operator James Holmes in Transmitter building 1907

It was a bucket list dream come true. I felt honored to both meet Mike, the former Royal Navy CW Op, and Barry and his family who graciously let Alanna and me come into their private house (and hear their teenage daughter Vivian play the classical piano in one of Marconi's former sitting rooms). I hope the photos do justice.

Marconi Revived, continued

73 de K4RLC Bob & VE1/K4RLC

Thanks to Mike VE1CYO for many of the details on VAS;

Black & White photos courtesy of the Cape Breton Wireless Heritage Society www.cbwireless.ednet.ns.ca/cbwirelessp3.html for photos of the original Glace Bay sites and detailed information about the Marconi sites in Nova Scotia

A few of Bob 's, K4RLC radio pictures



K4AAC sending CW at Hanging Rock State Park



POTA at Bath, NC on 20CW



Kid's Day 2006, Lauren KA4LHC and Bobby W4RPC. He is holding a CW key in his hand.



Bob activating the State Capitol on July 4th on 20CW